

WOMT Summary for 4/1/2008:

The Smelt Working Group continued its recommendation that the Projects maintain a 7-day average Old & Middle River flow more positive than -2,000 cfs for the coming week.

In light of very low expanded salvage (4 delta smelt and 7 longfin smelt) and no larval smelt detection at either facility over the past week, WOMT recommended continuing to operate to a 7-day average OMR of -2,500 cfs under the same conditions as last week. Those conditions were as follows: (1) increases in total project pumping would be limited to no more than 1,000 cfs on any given day, and (2) the target OMR flow would revert to -2,000 cfs if (a) combined adult delta smelt salvage were to exceed 24 over the next seven days, (b) larval delta smelt were to be detected at either facility on any two days, (c) combined adult longfin smelt salvage were to exceed 24 over the next seven days, or (d) larval longfin smelt were to be detected at either facility on any two days. The count for the adult salvage and larval detection would begin again on Wednesday, April 2nd.

USFWS concurred that the -2,500 cfs OMR target, subject to the previous conditions, adequately protects delta smelt and that if the more restrictive OMR target is triggered, returning to the -2,000 cfs target would minimize the risk to adult delta smelt or longfin smelt in the central Delta from being transported into the south Delta or becoming entrained at the export facilities.

DFG found that the above -2,500 cfs OMR target for delta smelt, as conditioned, adequately protects longfin smelt. DFG based this decision on the current information regarding the distribution of longfin smelt adults and larvae and the recent pattern of longfin smelt salvage.